(b) In Gujarat, 1970 family type biogas plants were set up under the aegis of the State Government in 1981-82 and this number increased to over 8590 plants in 1985-86.

(c) The information is being maintained on financial year April to March months basis. During April to July, 1987, about 3150 plants have been set up in Gujarat and a sum of Rs. 1.04 crores has been sanctioned to the State nodal agency under the National Project on Biogas Development.

(d) No, Sir.

Rules and regulations for setting up petrol pumps

3455. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules, regulations and guidelines adopted for the setting up of petrol pumps by the Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Limited, separately for each one;

(b) what are the plans, programmes and estimates for the opening of new petrol pumps during the period from 1st September, 1987 to 31st December, 1989 in Baroda, Valsad, Surat, Broach, Bhavanagar, Rajkot and Amreli;

(c) the names of petrol pumps of each company which at present exist in the above districts of Gujarat;

(d) how many of the above petrol pumps belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, persons of minority community, disabled, deaf and dumb persons, war widows, other women and blind persons; and

(e) what is the percentage earmarked for the above categories for allotment of petrol pumps during the period from 1st September, 1987 to 31st December, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The Oil Industry (comprising IOC, HPC, BPC & IBP) identifies locations for development of Retail Outlets based on volume/distance norms evolved for this purpose. Locations which are found feasible are included in the Annual Marketing Plans. These are then divided among the different oil marketing companies depending upon their market share. The categories for the various locations are decided on the basis of the 100-Point formula adopted by the oil industry;

(b) Plans for development of new Retail Outlets for MS/Diesel are drawn on an annual basis. From the Marketing Plan (1980-81) to the Marketing Plan (1986-87), retail outlets at 82 locations are at various stages of commissioning in Gujarat. Out of these, 8 locations pertain to Baroda, 1 to Valsad, 6 to Surat, 2 to Broach, 6 to Bhavnagar, 12 to Rajkot and 4 to Amreli districts. The remaining 43 locations pertain to other districts in the State;

(c) The oil companies had 896 Retail outlets in operation in various districts of Gujarat State as on 30-6-1987 as per Statement attached. [*See* Appendix CXC-III, Annexure No. 128].

(d) The number of Retail Outlets in existence as on 30-6-87 in Gujarat State under the categories indicated are as under:

Scheduled Caste . . .	20
Scheduled Tribe . . .	8
Physically Handicapped/Disabled Defence Personnel . .	11

No separate reservation exists for any minority community for deaf and dumb (only partially hearing handicapped persons are eligible), for war widows (these are included in the Defence Category), or for women. Totally blind persons have been made eligible for Retail Outlets and SKO-LDO agencies effective 1-1-1987;

(e) The percentage reservation for award of dealerships is on a statewide and oil industry basis only. Currently, the re-

servation percentage for award of dealerships is as under:

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) . . .	25%
Physically Handicapped etc. (PH)	7%
Defence Category (DC) . .	7%
Freedom Fighters (FF) . .	5%
Others (Open) . . .	55%

Increasing demand for LPG connections

3456. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG connections for domestic use is increasing day by day;

(b) what steps have been taken to fulfil the demand;

(c) how many new connections have been given in Gujarat and other States from 1985 to July, 1987, year-wise;

(d) what is the number of persons registered from 1st January, 1986 to 31st July, 1987 in the districts of Baroda, Surat, Broach, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Amereli;

(e) how many of them have been sanctioned LPG connections; and

(f) how many are on the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts are being made on a continuous basis made on to augment availability of LPG and necessary related distributorships structural facilities like bottling plants and distributorships with a view to meeting the LPG requirements of the consumers;

(c) The number of customers enrolled during the period from April 1, 1985 to March 1987, in Gujarat and other States were 3,73,389 and 27,97,434 respectively.

(d) to (f) The district-wise details of applications registered and LPG connections released are as under:

District	Applications received from 1-1-1986 to 31-7-1987	Number of LPG connections released from 1-1-1986 to 31-7-1987	Waiting list as on 1-8-1987
Amreli	1533	869	3230
Baroda	84024	35020	48278
Bharuch	39551	14414	11951
Bhavnagar	2856	13564	18553
Rajkot	12359	15358	42733
Surat	86330	36216	67514

Circuit benches of High Courts

3457. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of representations have been received during the period from 1st January, 1981 to 31st July, 1987 from various Bar Associations and organisations for the establishment of circuit benches of High Courts in various States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;